

2 meter or 220 MHz
EMC in fast-food environment (cross-posting)
Mobile overvoltage protection.
rec.ham-radio is out of control
Restrictions on RECEIVING signals in England....
TS-680S vs. IC-726
Wall Street Journal on cordless phone listening

Well I finally got around to passing the code and am waiting for the good ol' FCC to send me the Novice license. I am definitely going to go for the Tech. class license ASAP. My question is what type of rig should I start my HAM life with. I have narrowed my choices down to either a dual bander 2 meter/ 440MHz or a 220MHz handheld. Does anyone have any comments or suggestions on what band they like the best. I hear that 2 meter is very popular but is also very crowded in the urban areas. (where I will be setting up shop) Any replies would be greatly appreciated.

The following is a cross-posting from RISKS list, which may amuse and entertain you, bearing in mind some of the recent discussions.

Who needs to phone through the autopatch to order a pizza?

Just pull up outside the pizza parlor, switch on that 2Kw mobile linear, and call 'CQ PIZZA' ??

[illegible]

>

>Esparza, the author of McDonalds' "Electrical Disturbance Standards," has some
>great war-stories to tell about problems cropping up in these highly automated
>fast-food environments due to unforeseen interactions among appliances. One
>he described as "the most serious interference incident that McDonalds
>has ever experienced" involved toasters and timekeeping.

>

>It seems that when McDonalds decided to introduce McMuffin products, they had
>to install special toasters. Soon, many of their employee time-clocks
>inexplicably started to gain 2 to 4 hours each day, crediting workers with
>more hours than they had actually worked. After a lot of head-scratching (and
>testing), they discovered that the new toasters' voltage control circuits
>induced voltage spikes in the powerline during normal operation - sometimes as
>many as 120 per second. This disrupted the clocks on the same power circuit,
>since they monitored the alternating current's waveform for the purpose of
>time-keeping: the voltage spikes increased the number of "zero-crossings,"
>which were used as the metric.

>

>"By the time we were able to pin down the problem exactly, there were more
>than 5,000 toasters installed in the restaurants... Some restaurants reverted
>to manual procedures for payroll timekeeping, but there were a number
>of employees who were paid for extra time because of the clock errors.
>Although the managers were understandably upset, none of the crew complained."

>

>"Ghosts in the Drive-Thru" was another baffling problem, affecting the POS
>(point-of-sale) system of a McDonalds in suburban Los Angeles: "The POS system
>is a collection of computerized cash registers that are networked together
>in a somewhat sophisticated and proprietary network," Esparza explains.
>The problem was that bogus food orders showed up randomly in the system.
>"The restaurant could distinguish ghost orders from real orders because
>the quantity of the items displayed was the same - 11 cokes,
>11 fries, 11 hamburgers, etc.

>The items themselves were directly copied from the previous, actual order.
>These orders could not be cancelled but had to be cashiered out of the
>system, thereby rendering all product mix and sales information invalid
>and creating a potential security/theft problem, in addition to slowing
>customer service in the drive-thru."

>

>The restaurant's POS system and all of its software was replaced, but the
>problem continued. To make a long story short, this McDonalds happened to be
>near a cluster of radio and television transmission towers. The POS system's
>wiring acted as an antenna, capturing the signals, and corrupting some of the
>data that flowed thru the wires.

>

>One problem described in this article stands out as a potential threat to many
>more retailers than just McDonalds: "The Cash Drawers that Opened by
>Themselves." Again making a long story short, Esparza discovered that the
>problem began soon after the local police department upgraded their

this "frequency" because I don't say what you want to hear. Oh excuse me, were you here first? And what's this "us" shit? Oh yes, you must be in charge here. You are the epitome of 14313.

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Date: 7 Dec 89 14:59:56 GMT
From: rochester!ray@rutgers.edu (Ray Frank)
Subject: Restrictions on RECEIVING signals in England....
Message-ID: <1989Dec7.145956.24247@cs.rochester.edu>

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In article <340@ubbs-nh.MV.COM> noel@ubbs-nh.MV.COM (N. Del More) writes:
>In article <3865@vanuata.cs.glasgow.ac.uk> pottera@cs.glasgow.ac.uk (Alan T
Potter) writes:
>>In article <6563@lynx.UUCP> neal@lynx.UUCP (Neal Woodall) writes:
>>>In article <24.Nov.89.14:59:49.GMT.#7127@UK.AC.NWL.IA> Matt Brunton writes:
>>>
>>>>.....Over here in the UK the law lets you
>>>>listen to licensed radio amateurs, licensed CB operators and
>>>>broadcasters AND THAT IS IT.
>>>
>>>Do you thin this is GOOD? If you do, I feel sorry for you.....
>>>
>>>>Just another reason for me to think that England is a police state. This may
>>>>not be ther proper forum, but then again maybe it is....I will let the readers
>>>>decide.....
>
>Gack!  England a police state?!?
>
>You'd think that as Amateur Radio Operators we'd be more cognizant of
>different cultures and societies, at least more so than the average
>wino...
>
>England a police state?  No... different yes, different laws as well as
>customs and rightly so.  Just think of what a bore the world would be if
>all countries where carbon copies of the US.
>
>Lets look at the really nice things about England.... cops who don't
>carry guns, and citizens that aren't bent on shooting each other in
>traffic etc....  (no gun nut flames please, I'm an NRA member).
>
Yea, like mediocre socialized medicine, high unemployment rate, low wages,

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a ridiculous figure head that costs this declining nation billions a year.

>Don't waste your time worrying about the folks across the pond... you've
>enough to worry about here, I mean our blessed government is spewing
>pro-democracy BS to the world while our legislators are busily eroding
>our fundamental rights!

>

Pro-democracy BS? Is this what you think of democracy, that it's BS?
Of course when you mention fundamental rights you are of course referring
to the war on drugs, no? Drug use is not a fundamental right ya know.
And tell the all those Eastern Europeans how democracy is BS. They would
spit in your eye.

>Now step right up and pee in the bottle boy..... wanna see if your
>eligible for a pay check.

>

>Noel B. Del More | decvax!ubbs-nh!noel
>17 Meredith Drive | noel@ubbs-nh.mv.com
>Nashua, New Hampshire 03063 | It's unix me son! `taint spozed tah make cents

If they ask me to I will, considering that I am willing to do my part in
fighting drugs. It would seem that pissing in a bottle is a small part to
play in this war when you consider that many others are losing more than
just piss, they are losing their lives.

I know this is out of line with this news group but then again so was
the posting I responded to, so I didn't start it.

ray

Date: 6 Dec 89 18:00:00 GMT
From: snorkelwacker!spdcc!merk!alliant!linus!raybed2!ewb@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu
(EUGENE BALINSKI)
Subject: TS-680S vs. IC-726
Message-ID: <1416@raybed2.UUCP>

In article <8912050806.AA13506@ucbvax.Berkeley.EDU>, FNDDR@ALASKA.BITNET ("Don
Rice, GI 708B, 474-7569", 907) writes:

> I'm looking at these rigs as possible replacements for my old ham-only
> transceiver and my old shortwave radio, to save space, simplify wiring,
> and hopefully improve performance. I have the specs for both, and I've
> found reviews of the TS-680S. Questions:
> a) I haven't found any reviews or discussions of the IC-726...anyone care
> to offer either?

The IC 726 is basically an IC 725 with the addition of 6 meter. There is

a great difference between the 680 and the 726. I believe you will find that the 726 may have better receiver performance with very weak signals, and under high qrm conditions. This is due to Icom's DDS or Direct Digital Synthesis. The LO synthesizer is supposedly cleaner, ie. less noisy. This translates into less noise to cover up weak signals and better inter-modulation (IM) performance due to no reciprocal mixing.

> b) Both have rather wide AM selectivity. Are these useable SWL DX radios?

I have listened to both on the SW band. For typical listening they both do a good job. For jam-packed band conditions I have no data.

> I like the 726's receive sensitivity, and the 680's price...other than that,
> they both have various (to me) minor pros and cons, but the choice isn't
> clear-cut. Any advice would be appreciated.

If you can, find someone who has these radios and invite yourself over to their shack (bribe them with pizza if you have to). Spend a few hours with each and do the kind of operating that you plan on. A contest weekend would be a good receiver check. Remember to take into account any differences in station construction, or even better yet, see if you can convince one of the people to bring his/her radio to the other station for an A/B comparison. Other than that visit your local radio dealer and play. Good luck. Please tell us of your choice.

>
> Don Rice
> KL7JIQ
> FNDDR@ALASKA.bitnet

73
Gene WA1UXA

Date: 7 Dec 89 07:09:18 GMT
From: dlb!zygot!john@ames.arc.nasa.gov (John Higdon)
Subject: Wall Street Journal on cordless phone listening
Message-ID: <10990@zygot.ati.com>

In article <838@crash.cts.com>, scotto@pnet01.cts.com (Scott O'Connell) writes:
> Motorola has had DES capabilities in their commercial radios for
> several years. It's not like they had to develop encryption for
> their cellular radios.

Ah, yes. But first, they would have to convert every single radio and base system to *digital*. That would be a considerable expense.

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